Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

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Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Postcard Collection at Nabb Center

by Corinne S. Les Callette

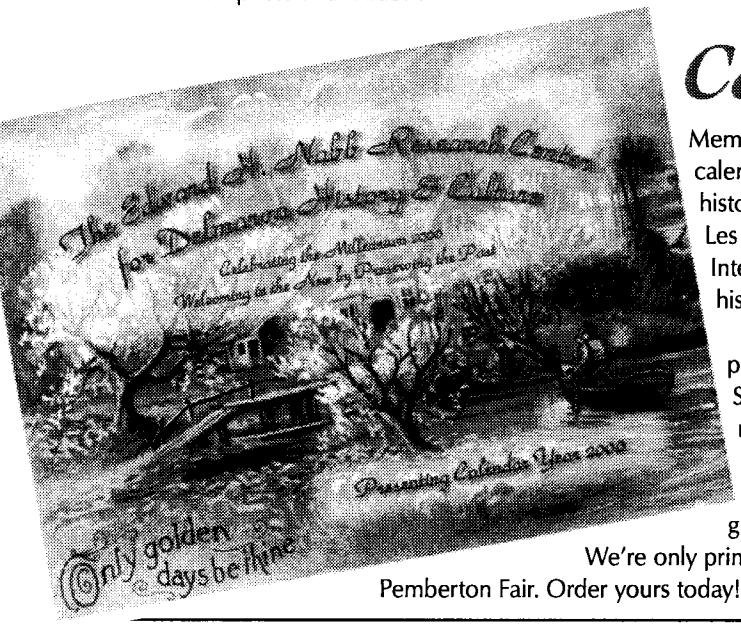
There is an old saying that the shoemaker's children are the ones who must go without shoes. And so, this is applicable to those of us who work at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

There are many boxes of genealogical and historical information in my basement which I know should be brought to the Nabb Center for conservation and preservation. Nestled in this material were albums of postcards lovingly saved by two sisters, Clara Les Callette and Beulah Les Callette, from 1905 through 1911, sent to them from friends and admirers. I remembered these treasures when locating pictures to be used in the forthcoming Nabb Research Center Calendar 2000. The images, scenes and sentiments of these postcards crystallized a moment in time and history with whimsy and delight. So it was that these albums, filled with many Eastern Shore scenes, were saved from dampness and mildew.

Beulah Les Callette (1887-1966)

Clara (October 7, 1889-July 2, 1969) and Beulah (June 24, 1887-October, 1966) were daughters of Carl and Clary Parks Les Callette and sisters to six brothers and sisters. The family resided in Pocomoke where their father was a jeweler and a watchmaker. Clara married Edward R. Evans of Crisfield, where they lived until their deaths in 1969. Beulah never married but lived and worked in Washington, D.C. for the federal government and even in retirement lived there until her death in 1966.

The Nabb Research Center Calendar 2000 will mark the future, but it will do so by preserving a moment in time, bringing back memories to some and encouraging others to enjoy the yesteryears as seen through turn-of-the-century postcards. Come see the postcards in the Les Callette Collection at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. For ordering information see page 6.


The Edward H. Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History & Culture
Celebrating the Millennium 2000
Welcoming in the New by Preserving the Past
Presenting Calendar Year 2000
Only golden days before me

CenterDesigns Calendar

Members of the Nabb Research Center will not want to miss the Center's first calendar, sure to become a collector's item among those interested in Delmarva history. The calendar is for the year 2000 and uses postal cards from the new Les Callette Collection, as well as other historic photographs from the region. Interesting features about the calendar include regional events by month and historic dates. The calendar is colorful and will be a great addition to your wall.

Salisbury State University's Office of Publications is hard at work on production of the unique calendar, which will be ready for sale by the end of September. It is hoped that the sale of the calendar will be an annual fund raiser for the Nabb Research Center, as well as documentation and interpretation of Delmarva's past. Future editions will continue to feature thematic historic photographs from the Nabb Center's vast collection of photographs.

We're only printing enough for our membership and a few extras to be sold at the Pemberton Fair. Order yours today! (See order form on page 6.)

Accomack County Election Districts Defined

In 1634, the Eastern Shore of Virginia became one of the original eight shires of the Virginia Colony and was named Accomack. This name was changed to Northampton in 1642. It was divided into the two present counties in 1663, Accomack in the north and Northampton to the south.

In 1670, it was suggested that Accomack County, approximately twice the size of Northampton, be divided into two counties, Accomack and St. George. There was such a controversy over this that the entire Eastern Shore of Virginia was again united as Northampton County. In 1673, it was divided once more into Northampton and Accomack Counties. At this time, Accomack County was also divided into St. George Parish, the Lower Parish, and Accomack Parish, often called the Upper Parish. Accomack Parish was called District Number One in some instances (in the Register of Deaths) and St. George was referred to as District Number Two.

In 1868, Accomack County was divided into five townships that were changed to districts in the 1870s. Accomack Parish became Islands District, Atlantic District and Metompkin District. Lee District and Pungoteague District were formed from St. George Parish and were still called St. George Parish by the 1870 Federal Census.

The Islands District includes Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. Atlantic District extends from the Maryland line to a line connecting the head of Messongo Creek with the head of Assawoman Creek. Its southern border crosses U.S. Route 13 just north of Kegotank Elementary School, north of Mappsville. Metompkin District extends from the Atlantic District south to a line connecting the head of Hunting Creek with the head of the middle fork of Parker's Creek. This line crosses U.S. Route 13 at its intersection with Route 661, north of Accomac. Lee District borders Metompkin District on its north and extends south to a line connecting the head of Pungoteague Creek with the head of Rattrap Creek. This line crosses U.S. Route 13 just north of Melfa. Finally, Pungoteague District is the area between Lee District and the Northampton County border. Its southern border, on the west, is Occohannock Creek and the county line crosses U.S. Route 13 south of Belle Haven Station, extending southeast to Parting Creek.

Tangier Island was a part of Lee District until several years ago. It was put into Atlantic District after census records indicated this would make the population of these two districts more equal.

1880 Federal Census for Accomack County:

Atlantic District, Enumeration District Number 1 - east of U.S. Route 13

Atlantic District, Enumeration District Number 2 - west of U.S. Route 13

Chincoteague Island, Enumeration District Number 3

Lee District, Enumeration District Number 4 - east of U.S. Route 13

Lee District, Enumeration District Number 5 - west of U.S. Route 13

Metompkin District, Enumeration District Number 6 - east of U.S. Route 13

Metompkin District, Enumeration District Number 7 - west of U.S. Route 13

Pungoteague District, Enumeration District Number 8 - east of U.S. Route 13

Pungoteague District, Enumeration District Number 9 - west of U.S. Route 13

The preceding article was written by Nabb Research Center member Mary Frances Carey, genealogist, 31415 Horntown Road, New Church, VA 23415, on August 10, 1999. We are appreciative of her thoughtfulness to supply this valuable information for our members.

Primary vs. Secondary Sources Deeds

We all realize the value of published secondary sources that serve as great use to historians in our research. The following are deeds found by Becky Miller with regard to the tract "Double Purchase," patented by Randall Revell, which are omissions in the popular published secondary source on Somerset County land records. Many researchers use secondary sources such as this one to establish title to land, which is a faulty course. The only way to construct accurate land titles is to search the land records using primary sources, the deeds themselves.

January 29, 1680

Randall Revell and Katherine his wife sold to William Furniss 245 acres now called "Middle Plantation" out of 2,800 patent "Double Purchase."

October 10, 1682

Randall Revell sold to George Downs 200 acres now called "Downs Lott" out of "Double Purchase."

July 11, 1685

George Downs and Margaret his wife sold to Andrew Whittington 200 acres of "Downs Lott."

July 15, 1692

Andrew Whittington conveyed to William Fassitt and Elizabeth his wife by deed of gift "Downs Lott."

March 22, 1699

Randall Revell and Rachel his wife sold to John West 405 acres now called "Brothers United" out of "Katherine's Content" and "Great Hope" taken out of "Double Purchase" granted to said Revell's father, deceased.

June 11, 1699

William Fassitt by bond conveyed to William Foxon "Downs Lott."

July 3, 1712

William Foxon and Judith his wife sold to Robert King 200 acres of "Downs Lott" out of "Double Purchase."

Research Tip: In your personal copies of secondary source materials, insert omitted, and corrected, information as you discover it. Your book will be messy, but in time you will have a really valuable source at your fingertips. RFM

Unique Nabb Center Record Proves Valuable

On a hot July day when member Jim Trader arrived at the Nabb Research Center to do some cool research, employee Iris Powell, knowing of his research on the Trader family, called his attention to a plat of a lot to Purnell Trader in the plat collection of Richard W. Cooper.

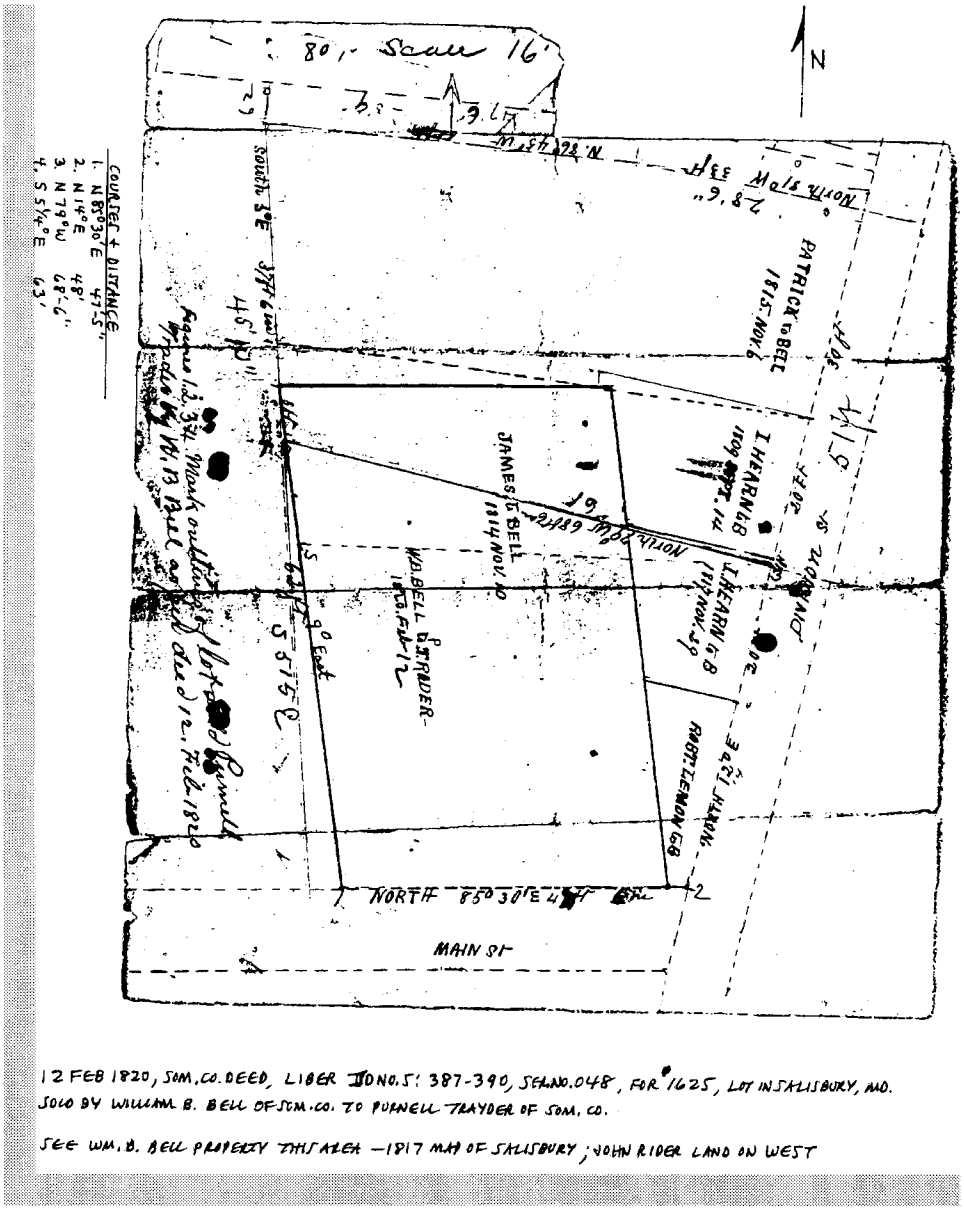
Examination of the fragile, dog-eared plat on brown paper, which was separating at the crease folds, showed the area of a lot marked by four course numbers sold by a William B. Bell to a Purnell Trader in 1820, with February 12 as the deed date. There was no name of the surveyor nor a date shown on the drawing.

Following receipt of this information and making a plat copy, Trader researched the Somerset County deed record in Liber JD5, folios 387-390, noting the courses; distances; adjacent storehouse of Thomas Harvey Limited, near the north lot line; measurement from a cellar door; and a fence on the west line between the Bell land, the residence lot of neighbor John Rider and the sale for $1,625, of the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Division Streets in Salisbury.

The 1817 property map of Salisbury included by Cooper in his book *Profiles of a Colonial Community of Maryland's Eastern Shore* at page 183 clearly shows the land of John Rider and William B. Bell at the plat location, the Bell land running north to the alley south of the Masonic Building. The current site is occupied by a yellow brick building with offices and retail stores.

Purnell Trader, son of Henry Army Trader Sr. of Accomack County, Virginia, and his second wife Elizabeth Smith, of Worcester County, Maryland, also purchased other land in the town of Salisbury, part of "Mill Security," "Pemberton's Good Will," and "Race Ground Lot," one parcel adjacent to the land of William Venables who operated a mill at the dam on South Division Street. He and his wife also owned tracts named "Gethsemane" and "Long Delay" in Somerset County and in a Somerset County deed of January 23, 1819, conveyed eleven tracts totaling 338 and a half acres for $2,450 to his brother Joshua Trader. He served three days in the 11th Cavalry, Somerset County, War of 1812.

He died on May 31, 1856 and is buried with his wife and four children on the "home farm" on Naylor Mill Road of 691 and one-quarter acres subdivided into six lots on the plat by Samuel E. Foskey dated July 28, 1890 and whose outlines are easily found on current tax map drawings.


Scale 16
N
MAIN ST
NORTH 85° 30' E
PATRICK BELL
JAMES D. BELL
WM. BELL & TRADER
THEARLE
GENTLEMAN
12 FEB 1820, SOM. CO. DEED, LIBER JD NO. 5: 387-390, SEL NO. 048, FOR £1625, LOT IN SALISBURY, MD.
SOLD BY WILLIAM B. BELL OF SOM. CO. TO PURNELL TRADER OF SOM. CO.
SEE WM. B. BELL PROPERTY THIS AREA — 1817 MAP OF SALISBURY; JOHN RIDER LAND ON WEST

The plat found by Powell is not recorded among the county's official land records and is only found at the Nabb Research Center. Trader has also provided us with copies of the 1817 Salisbury map, a current section of a Salisbury map and his sketch of the Mill Security tract courses for the center's files. This is but a sample of unique records held by the Nabb Research Center. Thanks to Jim Trader for illustrating this for all our readers.

Newspaper Clipping Sheds Light on The Entailed Hat

Originally published in 1884, *The Entailed Hat*, or *Patty Cannon's Times*, is a literary perennial favorite. The flyleaf of the Nabb Center's 1969 edition from our Atwood Barwick Collection, states that the novel's "popularity has continued because it is a sound and truthful piece of writing about a section of America whose traditions and customs, and they are of a most unusual character, have remained pretty much unchanged for three hundred years." The following is an undated newspaper clipping that was attached to a typescription of Jonathan Cathell's will, recently found in a box at the Nabb Research Center entitled "Miscelleanous Genealogy Charts." Coincidentally, the day after it was found and retained for newsletter use, new member Dr. David Meredith of Ohio asked if we had any information on *The Entailed Hat*. How's that for luck?

In his "Day by Day" column of the *Baltimore News*, Carroll Dulaney outlines how the famous Eastern Shore novel, *The Entailed Hat*, got its name and explains why it was written. The author, George Alfred Townsend, who wrote under the name of Gath, explained, when asked why he used that nom de plume, "G is for George, A is for Alfred, T is for Townsend, and H is where I'm going when I die." This explanation was given one evening to a group of listeners as Townsend sat in the lobby of the old Purnell Hotel, at Snow Hill. It was retold by W.D. Pitts, of Berlin, whose father, the late W.D. Pitts Sr., was present at the time. Mr. Dulaney wrote as follows:

The most famous book ever written about the Eastern Shore of Maryland is George Alfred Townsend's novel *The Entailed Hat*. It was a best seller of its day.

And some of my friends believe they have discovered where Townsend got the title for his book.

Townsend was born on the lower Eastern Shore, where the scenes of *The Entailed Hat* are laid. The story, as many persons recall is about Patty Cannon, probably the most notorious woman Maryland has ever known, although Delaware must share Maryland's questionable honor.

Patty Cannon was the queen of kidnapers of her day. Her home was a tavern on the border line between Dorchester County and Delaware. There with her young son-in-law, Joseph Johnson, and a gang of cutthroats, she made a fortune kidnapping free Negroes and selling them to slave-traders. Her husband is said to have been a very decent citizen, but Patty soon got rid of him by poisoning.

For many years Patty eluded the officers of the law, but finally Thomas Holliday Hicks, a Dorchester county constable, afterward Governor of Maryland, arrested Patty and turned her over to the Delaware authorities. The bodies of several murdered men were found in her tavern yard, but Patty cheated the gallows by poisoning herself.

But, to return to Townsend's story *The Entailed Hat*, the author was related to the Cathell family. And a descendant of the Cathells, A.P. Connelly of East Falls Church, Va., and P.G. Skirven of Baltimore, prominent member of the Eastern Shore Society and the author of a number of Maryland church histories, recently examined some old Cathell wills preserved in the Hall of Records, at Annapolis.

"AND MY BEST HAT"

Among these wills was one of Jonathan Cathell of Worcester county, dated April 16, 1772. And one clause of the will reads: "I give unto my son, Jonathan Cathell, one tract of land called Modland, that is to say, all that part of said land that lyeth on the north side of a road or path that leads from the head of the Nanticoke river to Benjamin Stockley's bridge, AND MY BEST HAT."

The "Modland" mentioned in the will is believed to be the place now known as Woodland. Mr. Connelly's great-grandfather, a son of the Jonathan to whom the entailed hat was bequeathed, had a shipyard at Bethel, Del., a short distance from Woodland. Mr. Connelly's grandfather was a sea captain and shipbuilder and two of his sons were mates on sea-going vessels, one of them afterwards becoming an Episcopal minister.

During the War between the States, George Alfred Townsend became famous as a war correspondent and used the nom de plume "Gath." He built a "castle" at Gapland, on South Mountain, where he also erected a great stone memorial to war correspondents.

Undated article from Carroll Dulaney's "Day by Day" column of the Baltimore News.

Temporary Change in Hours

Hear ye! The Nabb Research Center will be open for an additional two and a half hours on Wednesdays during the fall semester. Our new graduate student, Aaron Horner, is keeping the Nabb Research Center open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. If statistics indicate that the Center is being used extensively during the new extended Wednesday hours, we will attempt to continue the practice during the spring semester as well.

Notice: The Nabb Research Center will be closed for business to everyone during the day on Wednesday, October 27, for the Board of Directors meeting to be held at the Nabb Research Center at 1 p.m. The Center will be open that evening for use by students and patrons.

Ante-Bellum Medicinal Aid

The following article is taken from a newspaper clipping found in a circa 1843 journal of poems.

Cut This Out

Every person should know how to treat a flesh wound, because one is liable to be placed in circumstances away from surgical and veterinary aid, where he may save his own life, the life of a friend or of a beast, simply by the exercise of a little common sense. In the first place, close the lips of the wound with the hands and hold them firmly together to check the flow of blood until several stitches can be taken and a bandage applied. Then bathe the wound for a long time in cold water. "Should it be painful," a correspondent says, "take a panful of burning coals and sprinkle upon them common brown sugar and hold the wounded area in the smoke. In a minute or two the pain will be allayed, and the recovery proceeds rapidly. In my case a rusty nail had made a bad wound in my foot. The pain and nervous irritation were severe. This was all removed by holding it in the smoke fifteen minutes, and I was able to resume my reading in comfort. We have often recommended it to others with like result. Last week one of my men had a finger-nail torn out by a pair of ice-tongs. It became very painful, as was to be expected. Held in sugar smoke twenty minutes, the pain ceased and promised speedy recovery."

Bachelors Taxed in Worcester County

On July 20, 1758 the Rev. Thomas Thornton, Joseph Dereckson, Josiah Mitchell, Powell Patty, Daniel Tingle, John Hudson, William Tunnell and James Cary of Worcester Parish met and "Taxed the Batchellors as followeth"

Buckingham Hundred
William Ironsheare
James Andrews
James Falconar
Sollomon Timmons
Isaac Muray
Ebenezr Campbell
John Postly
John Miller son John
Joshua Holloway

Baltimore Hundred
John Ratliff
Samuel Dale
Laban Kennet
Armel Showell
Erasmus Harrison
Aaron Craper
Mosses Holloway
Joshua Roberson
William Purkens Jr.
Levi Hopkins
William Craper
James Johnson

Indian River Hundred
Annanias Hudson
John Hanee Jr.
Robert McCray
John Marsey
William Roberson
Abner Lamb
Jesse Hickman

18th Century Residents Complain

"To ye Worshipfull Justices of ye peace for Somerset County Now in Court sitting the petition of the inhabitants neare ye head of wicocomoco River humbley sheweth that Whereas ye petitioners have been greatly burdened with ye two great Bridges on ye Branches of ye afd River one of w^{ch} is two hundred & fifty foot Long None of ye Neibours in ye County are burthened with such bridges therefore We Humbly crave to be Eased of the said Burthen & ye petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray"

Adam Hitch
Jno Holder
Thos Lichtor
George Smith
Robert Crouch
Thos Heron
Wm Cary
James Brady
Thos Humphris
Jno Ricketts
James Adams
John Catton
Thos Core
Jno Disheroon
John Mulkey
John Stevens
Phenix Hall
Thos Core Jun
Timothy Kenndy
John Crouch
John Crouch Jun
Thos Taylor
Dennis Duskie
Wm Hayman
John Caldwell
Thos Basha
Moses Duskie
Roger Adams
Lewis Disaroon
ffranc Bordman
Francis Hanes
Wm Kirk
Wm Dickes
Robert Haskins
Francis Elesh
Wm Whittington Jn
Cornelious Linch
James Smith
James Paramore
John Brady
John Davis
Jeremiah Right
Mathew Parramore
Michall Disarun

Notice that the surname "Disharoon" is spelled three different ways in the same document. Thanks to instructor Ed Jones of the History Department for calling this August, 1713, document to our attention. We will be interested if any of our readers may identify exactly the location of "ye two great Bridges."

Director Attends Harvard Business School

Nabb Research Center Director, Becky Miller, attended Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Mass., July 18-24, to participate in "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management." The executive education course focused upon strategic management perspectives regarding clarity of mission, translating mission into objectives, and developing plans and programs to accomplish the objectives. The intensive residential program was designed to help senior, nonprofit executives hone and acquire concrete leadership skills and a broad, strategic view of general management in the nonprofit sector.

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Volunteers Always a Plus

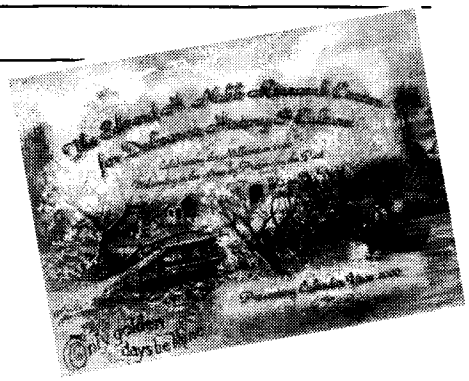
The Nabb Research Center continues to be the beneficiary of many hours of time from long-time volunteers Pat Taylor, Lucy and Lloyd Whitehead, Barbara Trader, Polly Batchelder, and Fay Brooks, for whose time we are very grateful. Volunteers' time is dear, in more ways than one. According to *The Nonprofit Board Report*'s September 1999 issue, "A recent study revealed the value of one hour of volunteer work in 1998 was $14.30." New volunteers are Barbara Woolston of Cambridge and Charles and Wanda Michelson of Salisbury. Join me in welcoming our new volunteers and thanking our faithful volunteers.

[order form]

Reserve a Year 2000 Nabb Research Center calendar for me! Enclosed is my check for $12.50 ($10 plus $2.50 shipping & handling)

Name _____

Address _____

State/Zip _____

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